

The regular meeting of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden was held on March 27, 1972 with Chairman, William Press presiding.

After a quorum was declared present, copies of the January, 1972 meeting were circulated and on motion were approved.

A letter was received from the Broadbent family thanking the Town Assembly for its extension of sympathy at Earl Broadbent's death.

A letter was received from Herman Kumme requesting that his name be withdrawn from nomination as a member of the Community Planning Committee.

A motion was made and passed to suspend the order of the meeting and to conduct the election of the committees first in order to expedite the meeting.

A motion was made and passed that the secretary be instructed to cast a ballot electing William Press as Chairman of the Town Assembly, Mary Morley as Secretary of the Town Assembly and Rae Gerstine as Treasurer of the Town Assembly unanimously.

Nominations were asked for from the floor before the balloting was conducted by the Registration Committee. Virginia Shaw was nominated to the Community Planning Committee and Kay Ringer was nominated to the Registration Committee.

Ballots were circulated for the election of committees. The business of the Town Assembly was continued while the ballots were being counted.

Cy Liberman presented the financial report for March 25, 1971 to March 20, 1972. The balance on hand at the end of the year was \$43,480.23. A copy is on file.

The committee appointed to try to have our county taxes reduced because we perform local service functions ourself prepared the necessary information and we have been informed that we will be taxed at a lower rate for 1972-73 if the County Council approves the recommendations.

Mr. Stephen Kowalchuk of the County Engineers presented the plans for the widening and deeping of Naamans Creek to control flood damage north of Marsh Road. The cost of the project is \$1,146,000. and this does not include the widening and raising of the bridge over the creek at Marsh Road. This work has to be approved by the State Highway Department before the work in the creek bed can be accomplished. Mr. Kowalchuk stated that no work was planned in the Arden part of the Naamans Creek, but he did state that we could expect a higher flood level than we have experienced previously. Discussion of the project was deferred to New Business.

Mr. Press announced that today is the 88th birthday of I. B. Finkelstein. Mr. Pressed thanked him for his many years of service to Arden and the meeting gave him a standing vote of appreciation.

No report from the Budget Committee

Board of Assessor report by Michael Curtis. Two open meetings will be held on May 25 and June 1 at 8 P.M. Residents are requested to present their ideas on full rental value of Arden land. Report on motion accepted.

Community Planning report stated that application to place Arden on the National Register of Historic Places will be sent in this week. The committee has sent a letter to Ardentown protesting the landfill and destruction of the woods at the side of the old swimming pool. The Community Planning Committee recommends that each leaseholder should be responsible for providing parking space on his own property for all the vehicles that are normally kept at that place. A questionnaire on rainwater drainage and sewer overflows circulated by the Brandywine Council was answered. The committee again urges all residents to prune corners, compost leaves, and not litter the community. The report on motion was accepted.

Civic Committee report by Reese Davis stated that Civic Committee had one meeting and field investigations since the January Town Assembly. A number of violations of the County Housing and Zoning Codes have been referred to the County Dept. of Development and Licensing for inspection and corrective action. Mr. John Wozniak, the Director of the above mentioned department, together with Mr. Pasquale Zampini, County Sanitation Inspection Supervisor and a member of the Civic Committee conducted a survey of Arden on March 14, 1972 to acquaint the County officials with the status of housing in the community.

There has been a recent change in the County Housing Code with regard to the storage of motor vehicles. It is as follows:

"Section H-507.0 Care of Premises.

"It shall be unlawful to store or permit to be stored, other than fully enclosed in a building, for more than 30 days on the premises of which a structure used for human habitation is located, an automobile that is incapable of being moved under its own power and does not bear current automobile registration...."

Letters requesting that rocks and other obstructions shall not be permitted within the limits of the road rights-of-way will be sent to those individuals who have placed obstructions on the edges of the roads.

The Civic Committee was dissatisfied with the quality of the snow plowing performed in February. The committee met with the contractor and expressed this dissatisfaction even though there were extenuating circumstances such as a stuck snow plow.

The Civic Committee studied the feasibility of lighting parts of the Arden green. Ornamental Post Top Units available only to communities entering into comprehensive street lighting contracts with Delmarva Power and Light Company. They are practical only in areas serviced by underground cables.

Overhead Mercury Vapor Lights. These are identical with that installed in the Gild Hall parking lot. The charge for a 175 watt mercury vapor light is \$4.65 per month, or \$55.80 per year. If a special pole is required, there will be an extra charge.

Gas lighting is not available at the present time.

The Civic Committee felt that this Assembly should express itself as to nature and extent of lighting desired and then instruct the Safety Committee to carry out these wishes. This can be done under Old Business.

A trash collection will be made in May.

Shaul Gladstone criticized the Civic Committee for not taking care of the roads or drainage situations. He made a motion that the report of the committee be rejected until they came up with a meaningful report that would affect the problems of the town. The motion was later withdrawn. Reese Davis stated that the Civic Committee had outlined the road project, but there is not enough money available to do all the work at one time. On motion the report of the Civic Committee was accepted.

No report from the Auditing Committee.

Advisory Committee work covered by other committee reports.

Registration Committee reported 421 registered voters. The Village of Arden is saddened by the death of one of the earliest residents, Jeanne Young. She was the first teacher hired by the State School Board to teach classes in Arden. She was one of the original founders of the Merry-Go-Rounders and active in the Arden Library. Mrs. Liberman also made a plea that everyone attempt to encourage their neighbors to attend Town Assemblies.

Safety Committee report by Shaul Gladstone on police liaison. Request that the greens be adequately policed by the patrol about 3:00 P. M. to protect children leaving the school bus was arranged. Enforcement of the one-way traffic flow on Sherwood Road also being checked. An attempt is being made to be certain that all fine money collected in Arden is forwarded to the town.

Richard Lynch, Chairman of the Safety Committee, stated that No Parking signs have been placed around the perimeter of the greens as well as Stop signs at designated locations. The State police are enforcing these restrictions.

The committee is concerned with periodic burglaries in the town and an apparent increase in incidents of vandalism; therefore, they will make available to all residents a program of engraving identification numbers on such salable items as appliances, cameras, television and stereosets, etc. All items would be marked for ready identification by law enforcement agencies and the committee is preparing warning cards to be placed at windows and doors stating that the house is so protected.

The Safety Committee intends to offer a \$100.00 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of not only burglars, but vandals that commit malicious mischief and physical property damage.

The committee is aware that some of our worse offenders in Arden are arrested by the police and then released by bail almost immediately, but nothing can be done about that at the present time.

The report of the Safety Committee was approved as presented.

Arden Resources Committee report by Leon Tanzer.

The committee is concerned with the eventual disposition of the Arden school building. The committee made the following recommendations:

1. The Mt. Pleasant School Board be encouraged to continue to use the building as a school. If they discontinue the kindergarten, we would like to see courses of the seminar type dealing with human development.

2. Various community organizations of the three Ardens should continue

to use the building.

3. The Arden Trustees keep informed concerning possible disposing of the school by Mt. Pleasant school district and they should be prepared to reacquire the building for Arden.

The committee devoted an entire meeting to the problem of vandalism and burglaries in the three Ardens. A sub-committee is being formed to refine the ideas presented and an action program will be instituted. The committee report on motion was accepted.

Harvey Road Committee report by Temma Tanzer. The committee had another fact finding field trip along Harvey road. Improvement to the road would cause minimal damage to trees and bushes along the road.. Hope to have a meeting in May with representatives from the Trustees, and standing committees of the Town Assembly to present findings about the road. Recommendations for action will be brought to the June Town Assembly.

Mr. Press said that the problem of the hedge on William West's property has not been entirely resolved, but Mr. West is willing to have the hedge moved. The matter of spending town funds for this has to be discussed with the Trustees.

Hugh Roberts will contact the newly elected chairmen of the the standing committee to find how his committee can aid them. The committee is watching to find what county, state, or federal bills will benefit Arden.

No report from the Brandywine Council of Civic Associations.

Under old business Carolyn Liberman reported that Clarice Heckert has formulated a bill that will exempt Arden and other smaller communities from the law that requires the use of voting machines, but the bill is still being discussed in committee.

Ordinance No.6-Excavations inVillage Roads was read and the following amendment suggested. Section 5 to be amended by adding"Each day such violation shall continue, shall constitute a separate offence. On motion this amendment was accepted.

A motion was made and passed that the question of lighting on the greens be dropped.

New Business:

The Registration Committee reported the results of the balloting as follows:

Auditing Committee: Carl VonDreele, George Hanstein, William Bindloss

Budget Committee: Sandra Kerwalla, Margaret Saye

Civic Committee: Woodrow Vandever, Alton Dahl

Community Planning: Aaron Hamburger, Edith Ware

Registration Committee: Carolyn Liberman, Mary Kummer, Mary Ann Van Neerden

Safety Committee: Richard Lynch, Temma Tanzer

Advisory Committee Chairman: Aaron Hamburger

A motion was made and passed that the Safety Committee be directed to develop a plan for the construction of speed deterrents in Village of Arden.

It was pointed out that these deterrents carry an element of risk and more information should be gathered about them.

The Woodbrook Civic Association requested that the Town Assembly be informed concerning a new helicopter ordinance being written which will pertain to the whole county. The proposed ordinance would have each application considered individually by the politically-appointed Board of Adjustment. The Woodbrook Civic Association feel that residents need a specific footage restriction banning the landing of helicopters closer than 500 yards ground distance to any area that is zoned residential or near a school or church unless necessary for police, hospital, military, emergency or governmental purposes.

A motion was made and defeated that we support the Planning Department on the ordinance to regulate helicopter by performance standards.

A amendment was made and withdrawn that we support the concept that they seriously consider that lower decibels be permitted.

A motion was made and withdrawn that the Town Assembly go on record to back the proposal of the Woodbrook Civic Association and have a committee follow up on the planning.

Those that were interested signed the petition in favor of the 500 yard ban.

Hetty Francke proposed that we set up a Arden Neighbors list of people who will help chauffeur those people, especially your Senior Citizens, who need transportation. Lou Santorallo provided this wonderful service and it was felt that this service should continue. It was suggested that this could be lined up in the Club Calendar.

It was suggested that we ask for the use of a microphone at the next Town Assembly and to arrange the seats in a semicircle to make it easier for all to hear the proceedings of the meeting.

Frank Akutowicz felt that the Town Assembly should not endorse the plans for Naamans Creek watershed as outline by Mr. Kowalchuk. He made the following motion that was passed:

"That the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden herewith expresses once more its opposition to the proposed methods of dealing with floods on Naamans Creek as outlined in the Mann-Talley report.

Specifically:

1. As the plans include no methods whatever for diminishing runoff and, consequently, downstream flood volumes will vastly increase as the plan is carried out.
2. Values both public and private affected by the project have not been revealed much less discussed.
3. The price tags are grossly disproportionate for the values that have been revealed."

A letter of sympathy will be sent to Enna Santorallo expressing the regret of the Town Assembly at Lou Santorallo's death.

The meeting on motion adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Morley
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Town Assembly Secretary